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Attorney Docket No. 06502.0018-02

7-13-01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Continuation Application of: )  
MATENA, Vladimir )  
Application No.: Not yet assigned )  
Filed: November 20, 2000 )  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS )  
FOR RELIABLE DISK FENCING )  
IN A MULTICOMPUTER )  
SYSTEM )

Prior Application Data  
Serial No. 09/023,074  
Filed: February 13, 1998  
Group Art Unit: 2785  
Examiner: LE, Dieu-Minh Thai

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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**SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please cancel all amendments and remarks specified in the Preliminary Amendment filed November 20, 2000 and prior to the examination of the above-reference application, please amend this application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claim 1 and add claims 14-26 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for preventing access to a shared peripheral device by a processor-based node in a multinode system, [including the steps of] comprising:
  - (1) storing at the peripheral device a first unique value representing a first configuration of the multinode system;